



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Pinedale Region

June 2017 Newsletter



Capturing Curlews

Jackson Nongame Biologist Susan Patla once again teamed up with Dr. Jay Carlisle from the Boise, Idaho-based Intermountain Bird Observatory to capture and mark long-billed curlews in western Wyoming. The birds are being fitted with solar-powered GPS transmitters that will allow biologists to monitor reproductive success and track their travels over the next couple years. In 2014-2015 birds were

marked on private lands near Daniel, in Grand Teton National Park, the National Elk Refuge and the Cody area. No new birds were marked in 2016, but birds were again fitted with transmitters in the same locations this year along with three birds near Saratoga, WY.

The marked birds that nest in Wyoming have been spending winters in southern California and Mexico. Mated pairs of curlews share the duty of egg incubation with females generally sitting on the nest during the day and

males taking the night shift. Females will leave for their wintering areas in early July, leaving the males to rear the chicks. Mated pairs winter apart, but will meet up again at nesting sites in the spring.

Those interested can learn more about the research being conducted on long-billed curlews as well as other birds at their website: <http://ibo.boisestate.edu/home/>.



Measurements are taken on the bird's long, curved bill north of Pinedale.



Nongame Biologist Susan Patla with a long-billed curlew before it's release.



(Upper Right) A solar-powered transmitter being fitted on the back of a curlew. (Left) Curlew researchers Madeline Voshell and Rebekah Bracken Release a marked curlew. (Right) a marked curlew takes flight after being released. Photo by Mark Thonhof





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Fear Meadows on the Green River

Flooding Closes River Access Areas

Due to especially high water on the Green and New Fork rivers, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has temporarily closed several of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department boat and fishing access areas. The areas are being closed due to damage to the boat ramps, access roads, and parking areas. The Public Access Areas will remain closed until the water recedes and Game and Fish crews are able to repair roads, parking areas, and boat ramps.

Green River Access Closures include: McLoughlin, Huston, Sommers, Fear Meadows and Reardon Draw.

New Fork River Access Closures include: Airport.

The Wyoming Game and Fish advises people to not float the rivers until they have receded. There are many bridges and barbwire fences that cross the New Fork River and Green River that are hazardous in these conditions. Due to the high flows, there may also be unexpected obstructions in the rivers.

For more information contact the Wyoming Game and Fish Pinedale Regional Office (307-367-4352).



Airport PAA on the New Fork River south of Pinedale

Reardon Draw access area on the Green River





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Kids Fishing Day

The Pinedale Fish crew, along with several partners and volunteers, held the annual Kids Fishing Day at the CCC Ponds north of town. Several freshly-stocked rainbow trout and grayling were caught. All of the participants cycled through the various educational stations, which included fly and spin casting, fish anatomy and fish stocking. Additional sponsors and participants included the local Bureau of Land Management, Bridger Teton National Forest, Trout Unlimited and Two Rivers Emporium (Orvis).





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Sage Grouse Stay Strong

Each year, several employees in the Pinedale Game and Fish office contribute to conduct sage grouse lek surveys. The number of birds counted gives managers a picture of what the general trend is for the species. Pinedale Wild-

life Biologist Dean Clause compiled the following data summarizing the average number of male sage grouse counted on all occupied leks, or strutting grounds, in the Pinedale area from 2007 - 2017. As you can see, the local population experienced a slump from 2010-2014, but has rebounded nicely the past few years.



Sage Grouse Lek #s

Year	Occupied	Checked	Percent Checked	Peak Males	Avg Males / Active Lek
2007	111	105	95	5683	69.3
2008	111	103	93	5135	59.0
2009	115	111	97	4469	52.0
2010	127	122	96	3672	38.3
2011	131	125	95	3635	34.6
2012	132	123	93	3663	36.6
2013	130	124	95	3405	34.7
2014	130	125	96	3497	36.1
2015	134	131	98	5590	52.7
2016	136	134	99	6085	56.9
2017	137	127	93	5921	62.0

Big Piney Bear Education

Big Piney Game warden Adam Hymas taught a large carnivore safety class at the Big Piney Recreation Center. Hymas encouraged students to learn about bear spray and how to use it (Right).





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From the Front Desk...

Pinedale Game and Fish Office Managers Lori Johnson and Kristen Draney have been getting several inquiries about the **LEFTOVER LICENSE DRAW** - Any leftover licenses from the initial draw will be distributed through a leftover draw. The list of leftover licenses will be available on the Game & Fish website on June 22. **The application period will be five days, June 26-30, 2017. Leftover draw results will be available on July 13.**

The leftover draw has different rules than the initial draw. In the leftover draw, hunters should know:

- There is no quota split. Resident and non-residents will be placed in the same draw pool.
 - Residents and non-residents can apply together in a party (up to 6 individuals) for licenses.
 - There are no application fees.
 - Preference points cannot be used and you will not lose preference points if you draw a leftover license.
- The leftover draw license availability is based on what is not allocated in the initial draw. The leftover draw does not have any influence on the initial draw.

PLEASE NOTE: The majority of remaining Elk, Antelope and Deer licenses are for hunt areas in which it may be difficult to obtain access. You are strongly urged to obtain permission to hunt prior to purchasing a license.



Also, don't forget to apply for your chance to win a Wyoming Super Tag. The deadline to apply is July 3rd! Apply on the Game & Fish website here: <https://goo.gl/AWcrZq>



Spring Black Bear Season

Persisting snow in the western Wyoming mountains delayed many bear hunters this year, but late season harvest picked up. The spring black bear hunting season runs May 1-June 15 in the Pinedale Region, unless the allotted female mortality quota is reached before season's end. This year, a total of 27 of the allotted 30 female bears had been taken in the Wyoming Range hunt areas 14, 15, 16, 17 and 30. In hunt area 19 on the west slope of the Wind River Range, only four of the allotted 10 females were taken by hunters. At left, Pinedale Large Carnivore Biologist Zach Turnbull checks the tooth wear on a successful bear hunter's harvest as Zach Gregory records data.

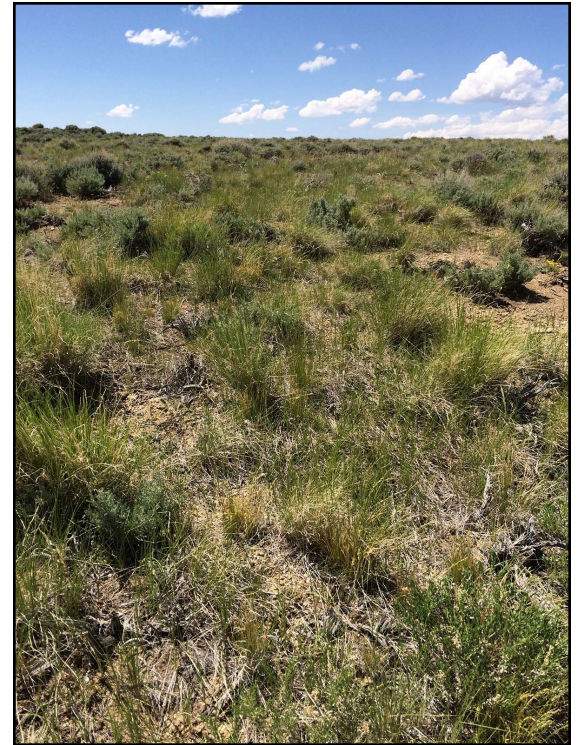


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Spring Forage Looking Good

Pinedale habitat biologists have been monitoring recent Wyoming Range mule deer habitat treatments near Big Piney and LaBarge and are seeing good results. Good growing conditions the last several years have helped to recruit young sagebrush plants (Below) into treated areas. Also, both leader production on sagebrush and grass production look great within the treated areas compared to untreated areas.



(Above) Good grass and shrub production being seen at a sagebrush mowing project completed by the Game & Fish Habitat & Access personnel on BLM land in the Wyoming Range south of LaBarge.

Daniel Hatchery at Work

The Daniel Hatchery crew finished up their Colorado River cutthroat spawn and has been busy stocking out some of their brood stock. They also helped stock grayling from Meadow Lake to several locations across Wyoming. They also have been busy conducting eight tours to a total of 127 visitors to the hatchery.

At right, tiger trout being raised at the Daniel hatchery to be stocked around the state.

